



For Immediate Release

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Rhode Island Introduces On-line Filing for Temporary Disability Insurance Claims

Individuals who have worked in Rhode Island may now file for Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) benefits via the Internet, announced Adelita S.Orefice, Director of the Rhode Island Department Labor and Training.

There are about 950 individuals on average who file for TDI each week. This figure includes both new and additional filings. The average weekly TDI benefit payment is \$350 per week. In 2004, there were 44,311 eligible initial claims filed in TDI and 469,571 payments made totaling over \$160.6 million.

“TDI customers will find it easier to file for a new claim or to reopen an existing claim,” stated Director Orefice. “Individuals are now able to fill out their claims via the Internet from the comfort of their home using their personal computer.”

This self-service, on-line filing, is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at www.dlt.ri.gov/t di. To take advantage of the on-line filing system, individuals must provide their Social Security Number, the full name, address, and telephone number of their healthcare provider(s), and the addresses and telephone numbers of employers they have worked for during the past two years.

The system provides general information and instructions for completing the application. Once the filing process is completed, the system generates a confirmation number for the individual's records and for follow-up questions on the claim.

Ray Filippone, Assistant Director of Income Support, stated, “The system is extremely customer friendly. Customers simply answer a series of prompted questions by filling in the required information and/or clicking on the appropriate response.”

Mr. Filippone commented that it is faster and more convenient than the traditional means of filing for TDI benefits through the mail. On-line filing complements the department's mail-in application procedure. During a pilot of the on-line application process, approximately 12 percent of claims were filed over the Internet. The Department anticipates that approximately 30-40 percent of claimants will take advantage of this new method to file for their TDI benefits.

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The Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training offers a wide array of employment and training services to both the general public and to individuals with unusual barriers to employment. DLT is ready to assist any job seeker, whether the goal is a first job, a better job, or a career change. Rhode Island's work force is protected through the enforcement of labor laws, prevailing wage rates, and work place health and safety standards. Temporary income support is available to unemployed, sick, or injured workers and a comprehensive rehabilitation program is available to those injured on the job.

DLT is dedicated to the growth and competitiveness of Rhode Island industry, administering a variety of training grants, tax credits, and apprenticeship programs to help employers. Economic indicators and labor market information are available for long-range planning. The Agency engages in active outreach, helping large and small employers retain their best workers or retrain their existing work force. At no cost to the employer, DLT will also screen job applicants, post job vacancies, and help businesses institute cost-sharing programs that can avert layoffs.

For more information on the innovative programs and services available to all Rhode Islanders at the Department of Labor and Training, please call (401) 462-8000 or visit the web site at www.dlt.ri.gov.

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Equal Opportunity Employer

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

TDD (401) 462-8006

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